



Department of Justice

**Timothy M. Morrison, Acting United States Attorney
Southern District of Indiana**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CONTACT: MARY BIPPUS

(317) 229-2403

Fax: (317) 226-5002

Cell: (317) 590-7928

INDIANAPOLIS DOCTOR CHARGED WITH UNLAWFUL DISPENSING OF OXYCODONE

PRESS RELEASE

Timothy M. Morrison, Acting United States Attorney for the Southern District of Indiana, announced that ADOLFO P. HERNANDEZ, 67, Noblesville, Indiana, a doctor with an office in Broad Ripple, was indicted by a federal grand jury sitting in Indianapolis for eight counts of Unlawfully Dispensing Oxycodone (Percocet), a Schedule II Controlled Substance, outside the scope of professional practice and not for a legitimate medical purpose, following a thirteen month investigation by the Drug Enforcement Administration and Indianapolis Metropolitan Drug Task Force.

The indictment alleges that HERNANDEZ, a licensed medical physician in the State of Indiana, unlawfully dispensed Oxycodone outside the scope of his professional practice and not for a legitimate medical purpose on at least eight occasions from December 20, 2007 through March 13, 2008.

On these occasions, undercover law enforcement officers called HERNANDEZ on his home or cellular telephone in order to secure appointments. They went to HERNANDEZ's office on E. 52nd St. in Indianapolis, where they paid \$125 cash in exchange for prescriptions for Oxycodone and Xanax, a Schedule IV, anti-anxiety drug. HERNANDEZ conducted no medical examinations and generated no medical records during their visits. No medical staff or employees were observed. Records indicate HERNANDEZ issued more than 8,400 prescriptions in the past year.

HERNANDEZ's office consists of a waiting room with chairs, his office, and an examination room, consisting of an exam table and a wall-mounted blood pressure cuff. There were no telephones, fax machines or computers, but there was a security camera and monitor.

"DEA will continue to protect the citizens of Indiana from those who abuse their authority to prescribe controlled substances," stated Dennis Wichern, Assistant Special Agent in

Charge, Drug Enforcement Administration. "I want to thank the U.S. Attorneys Office and the Metro Drug Task Force for their outstanding efforts on this investigation."

The indictment also contains a forfeiture allegation against HERNANDEZ, asking that all property acquired as a result of the unlawful distribution of controlled substances be forfeited to the government. HERNANDEZ purportedly owns a land and a home which was constructed in the last two years, valued at about half a million dollars, in Noblesville on Middletown Avenue.

According to Assistant U. S. Attorney Barry D. Glickman, who is prosecuting the case for the government, HERNANDEZ faces a maximum possible prison sentence of 20 years on each count and a maximum possible fine of \$8,000,000.00. Following a hearing held on Friday, March 21, 2008 before U.S. Magistrate Judge Kennard P. Foster, HERNANDEZ was ordered detained at the Marion County Jail pending a detention hearing in this case.

The indictment is an allegation only, and the defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty at trial or by guilty plea.

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